

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Applicant: Stephen C. Thatcher, et al.

Date:

For: MOWER WITH FLIP UP MOWING DECK

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Kansas City, Missouri

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants are aware of the following references listed on the attached PTO-1449, copies of which are enclosed:

U. S. Patents

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Patentee</u>
6,434,919	08/20/02	Schick
6,023,921	02/15/00	Burns, et al.
6,012,274	01/11/00	Eavenson, et al.
5,927,055	07/27/99	Ferree, et al.
5,915,487	06/29/99	Splittstoesser, et al.
5,816,035	10/06/98	Schick
5,816,033	10/06/98	Busboom, et al.
5,784,870	07/28/98	Seegert, et al.

5,475,971	12/19/95	Good, et al.
5,459,984	10/24/95	Reichen, et al.
5,410,865	05/02/95	Kurohara, et al.
5,355,665	10/18/94	Peter
5,079,907	01/14/92	Sameshima, et al.
4,779,406	10/25/88	Schroeder
3,874,150	04/01/75	Boeck

OTHER PRIOR ART

Brochure Bob-Cat® ZT 200 Series, by Ransomes Bob-Cat.

Brochure COUNTRY CLIPPER® Zero Turn Mowers, by Shivvers,
Mfg.

Brochure COUNTRY CLIPPER® Flip Up Deck, by Shivvers Mfg.

Brochure Z48, by Encore.

Brochure ZTR 5000 Series, by Dixon.

Brochure Exmark Lazer A® HP, by Exmark.

Brochure Pro Cut Z's, by Ferris Industries, Inc.

Brochure ZT MAX®, by F.D. Kees Manufacturing Co.

Brochure Snapper Yard Cruiser®, by Snapper.

Brochure TWISTER BZT Zero-Turning-Radius Riding Mower, by
Bunton, Division of Jacobsen.

Brochure GREAT DANE® "Zero Turn Chariot", by GREAT DANE
Power Equipment, Inc.

Brochure PROWLER, by Encore Power Equipment.

Brochure MTD Pro MNZ wide-area mower, by MTDpro.

Brochure IS® First With Independent Suspension, by Ferris Industries.

The above-listed references are, in the belief and opinion of the undersigned, the closest art of which the applicants are aware as of the date of execution of the Declaration in the above-captioned application.

Respectfully submitted,

7/8/03

Date

Stephen C. Thatcher
Stephen C. Thatcher, Inventor

7-8-03

Date

Scott A. Shick
Scott A. Shick, Inventor

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
				Application Number	
				Filing Date	
				First Named Inventor	Stephen C. Thatcher, et al.
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	1	of	3	Attorney Docket Number	10,220

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ² (if known)			
		US-6,434,919	08/20/02	Schick	
		US-6,023,921	02/15/00	Burns, et al.	
		US-6,012,274	01/11/00	Eavenson, et al.	
		US-5,927,055	07/27/99	Ferree, et al.	
		US-5,915,487	06/29/99	Splittstoesser, et al.	
		US-5,816,035	10/06/98	Shick	
		US-5,816,033	10/06/98	Busboom, et al.	
		US-5,784,870	07/28/98	Seegert, et al.	
		US-5,475,971	12/19/95	Good, et al.	
		US-5,459,984	10/24/95	Reichen, et al.	
		US-5,410,865	05/02/95	Kurohara, et al.	
		US-5,355,665	10/18/94	Peter	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)			

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, D.C. 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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Substitute for form 1449/PTO				<i>Complete if Known</i>	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use as many sheets as necessary)				Application Number	
				Filing Date	
				First Named Inventor	Stephen C. Thatcher, et al.
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet	2	of	3	Attorney Docket Number	

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁴
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Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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Sheet	3	of	3	Attorney Docket Number	

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue numbers(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T ²
		Brochure Bob-Cat® ZT 200 Series, by Ransomes Bob-Cat.	
		Brochure COUNTRY CLIPPER® Zero Turn Mowers, by Shivvers, Mfg.	
		Brochure COUNTRY CLIPPER® Flip Up Deck, by Shivvers Mfg.	
		Brochure Z48, by Encore.	
		Brochure ZTR 5000 Series, by Dixon.	
		Brochure Exmark Lazer A® HP, by Exmark.	
		Brochure Pro Cut Z's, by Ferris Industries, Inc.	
		Brochure ZT MAX®, by F.D. Kees Manufacturing Co.	
		Brochure Snapper Yard Cruiser®, by Snapper.	
		Brochure TWISTER BZT Zero-Turning-Radius Riding Mower, by Bunton, Division of Jacobsen.	
		Brochure GREAT DANE® "Zero Turn Chariot", by GREAT DANE Power Equipment, Inc.	
		Brochure PROWLER, by Encore Power Equipment.	
		Brochure MTD Pro MNZ wide-area mower, by MTDpro.	
		Brochure IS® First With Independent Suspension, by Ferris Industries.	

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